

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As an alternative to the above, calculating back-off windows may also be accomplished using the following functions. If the State Index i is odd then the Back-off Window $W(i)$ may be calculated using $W(i) = 2^{((i+1)/2)}$ (same as hereinabove). However, for even values of the State Index i the formula Back-off Window = $(2^{(2i/2)} + 2^{((i+2)/2)})/2$ is used. Shown in TABLE II are corresponding back-off windows for a range of state index values from 1-19, where the back-off windows were calculated using the Back-off Window formulas hereinabove. As seen in the table, according to the present invention, the back-off windows do not increase in the conventional exponential manner (e.g. using 2^i).